MERCHANT TAYLORS' SCHOOL

11+ OFFICIAL PRACTICE PAPER

ENGLISH

Time Allowed: 60 minutes

Instructions:

This paper is in two parts – a comprehension and your own composition. You should spend about half an hour on each part.

***SECTION ONE: COMPREHENSION*- 30 Minutes**

This extract is from Northern Lights by Philip Pullman. In this passage, Lyra, a young girl, and Pan, her daemon, are captured by strangers and then rescued. Daemons are creatures which have a special bond with the human they are connected to. A daemon can change its form and appear as a variety of different animals.

Read the passage carefully all the way through and then answer the questions that follow in the answer booklet.

Lyra tiptoed up to the hut and peeped in at the window. An old man was laboriously reading a picture-story paper and smoking a pipe, with his spaniel daemon curled up asleep on the table. As she looked, the man got up and brought a blackened kettle from the iron stove and poured some hot water into a cracked mug before settling back with his paper.

"Should we ask him to let us in, Pan?" she whispered, but he was distracted; he was a bat, an owl, a wildcat again; she looked all round, catching his panic, and then saw them at the same time as he did: two men running at her, one from each side, the nearer holding a throwing net.

Pan uttered a harsh scream and launched himself as a leopard at the closer man's daemon, a savage-looking fox, bowling her backward and tangling with the man's legs. The man cursed and dodged aside, and Lyra darted past him toward the open spaces of the wharf. What she mustn't do was get boxed in a corner.

Pan, an eagle now, swooped at her and cried, "Left! Left!"

She swerved that way and saw a gap between the coal-spirit barrels and the end of a corrugated iron shed, and darted for it like a bullet.

But those throwing nets!

She heard a hiss in the air, and past her cheek something lashed and sharply stung, and loathsome tarred strings whipped across her face, her arms, her hands, and tangled and held her, and she fell, snarling and tearing and struggling in vain.

"Pan! Pan!"

But the fox daemon tore at the cat Pan, and Lyra felt the pain in her own flesh, and sobbed a great cry as he fell. One man was swiftly lashing cords around her, around her limbs, her throat, body, head, bundling her over and over on the wet ground. She was helpless, exactly like a fly being trussed by a spider. Poor hurt Pan was dragging himself toward her, with the fox daemon worrying his back, and he had no strength left to change, even.

The whole world grew still as the man tying the net saw it too.

Pan sat up and blinked, and then there was a soft thud, and the net man fell choking and gasping right across Lyra, who cried out in horror: that was blood gushing out of him!

Running feet, and someone hauled the man away and bent over him; then other hands lifted Lyra, a knife snicked and pulled and the net strings fell away one by one, and she tore them off, spitting, and hurled herself down to cuddle Pan.

Kneeling, she twisted to look up at the newcomers. Three dark men, one armed with a bow, the others with knives; and as she turned, the bowman caught his breath.

"That en't Lyra?"

A familiar voice, but she couldn't place it till he stepped forward and the nearest light fell on his face and the hawk daemon on his shoulder. Then she had it. A gyptian! A real Oxford gyptian!



1. Put the following events in the order in which they occur in the extract. Number them from one to five, **where one happens first and five happens last**.

[5]

Lyra recognises the gyptian man	
One of her attackers begins to tie Lyra up.	
Lyra's attacker is killed by an arrow through the neck	
Two men trap Lyra in a net	
Pan turns into an eagle	

2. Look at lines 18-20. In your own words, explain how Lyra feels as she is captured. [4]

3. Pullman describes Lyra's capture in line 25: '*like a fly being trussed by a spider*'. What kind of picture does this simile create in your mind? [4]

4. What do you think the writer means when he says, '*The whole world grew still'* (line 28)?
[4]

5. Circle the word or phrase which has the closest meaning to 'laboriously' (line 1) [2]

Carefully with difficulty slowly easily quickly

6. Carefully read lines 29-34. **Explain** how the writer creates an atmosphere of shock and confusion here. Include **two quotes** from these lines in your answer.
[4]

7. Explain in your own words how Lyra and Pan are rescued.

[4]

8. Think of two words that, in your opinion, best describe the attack on Lyra.

[4]

a) _____

b) _____

9. Look back at the whole passage. Find **three** points in the text where the writer makes the attack exciting for the reader. For each example, give the line(s) you have chosen and **explain how** the writer makes it a dramatic moment. [9]

Example:

Explanation:

Example:

Explanation:

Example:

Explanation:

END OF SECTION ONE. **TOTAL MARKS FOR PART ONE - 40**

SECTION 2: Composition – 30 Minutes

Write in full sentences and organise your work into paragraphs. Marks are available for accurate spelling and punctuation. You should spend time planning and checking your work. Choose **one** of the following ideas:

Either:

1) **What happens next?**
   Carry on from where the *Northern Lights* extract finishes. Start with the line, 'Then she had it. A gyptian! A real Oxford gyptian!' and continue the story. You don't have to *end* the story; write 3-4 detailed paragraphs in which you describe what happens next.

Or:

2) **Animal Lovers.**
   Write an article for your school magazine about looking after pets. You might like to discuss why people like to have pets, what kinds of pets you could have and the importance of looking after animals. Remember that you are writing for people of your own age.

Or:

3) **The most exciting day of my life...**
   Write an account of the most exciting, dramatic or amazing day in your life. Try to use description to entertain and excite the reader.

Or:

4) **Stranger Danger!**
   You were approached by a stranger on your way home from school yesterday. Write a letter to your friend in which you explain what happened. Explain the event in detail: where you were approached, what the stranger did, how you felt and what you did.

END OF SECTION TWO. **TOTAL MARKS FOR PART TWO - 40**